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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/533,546

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25944 7590 02/12/2009
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EXAMINER

JACKSON, MONIQUE R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1794

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DELIVERY MODE

02/12/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Continuation of Item No. 11. NOTE: The Applicant's arguments filed 1/29/09 have been considered but are not persuasive. The Applicant argues that Aonuma does not teach or suggest that three aqueous solutions are to be prepared separately and notes that Aonuma teaches a two-package type solution system having an ammoniac nitrate solution and a reducing solution wherein the reducing solution is prepared by adding an amount of a solid reducing agent and an amount of a solid base component to water to form a single aqueous solution. The Applicant argues that Aonuma fails to teach or suggest preparing an aqueous solution of caustic soda and a separate aqueous solution of reducing agent and then mixing the two solutions together to obtain a mixed liquid however the Examiner first notes that the instant claims do not exclude the aqueous solution of caustic soda from being the same as the aqueous solution of the reducing agent and hence as previously recited in the prior office action, the reducing solution containing a reducing agent and a base component such as sodium hydroxide also reads upon the claimed caustic soda solution wherein the method of preparing the solution taught by Aonuma reads upon the preparing step as well as the mixing step to obtain "a mixed liquid". Additionally, the Examiner notes that though Aonuma utilizes solid NaOH added to the aqueous reducing solution, one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to add the base component, namely the NaOH, as either a solid or as an equivalent concentrated aqueous solution, given that the final mixture is an aqueous solution comprising both the NaOH and the reducing agent. Hence, in the absence of a clear showing of unexpected results with regards to utilize a separate aqueous solution of NaOH or aqueous NaOH vs. solid NaOH added to the aqueous reducing solution, the Examiner maintains her position that the

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instantly claimed invention would have been obvious over the teachings of Aonuma as previously recited.

Information Disclosure Statement

The clarification statement filed 11/13/08 with regards to the information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10/22/08 has been noted.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Monique R. Jackson whose telephone number is 571-272-1508. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Thursdays, 10:00AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on 571-272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Monique R Jackson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794
February 10, 2009

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